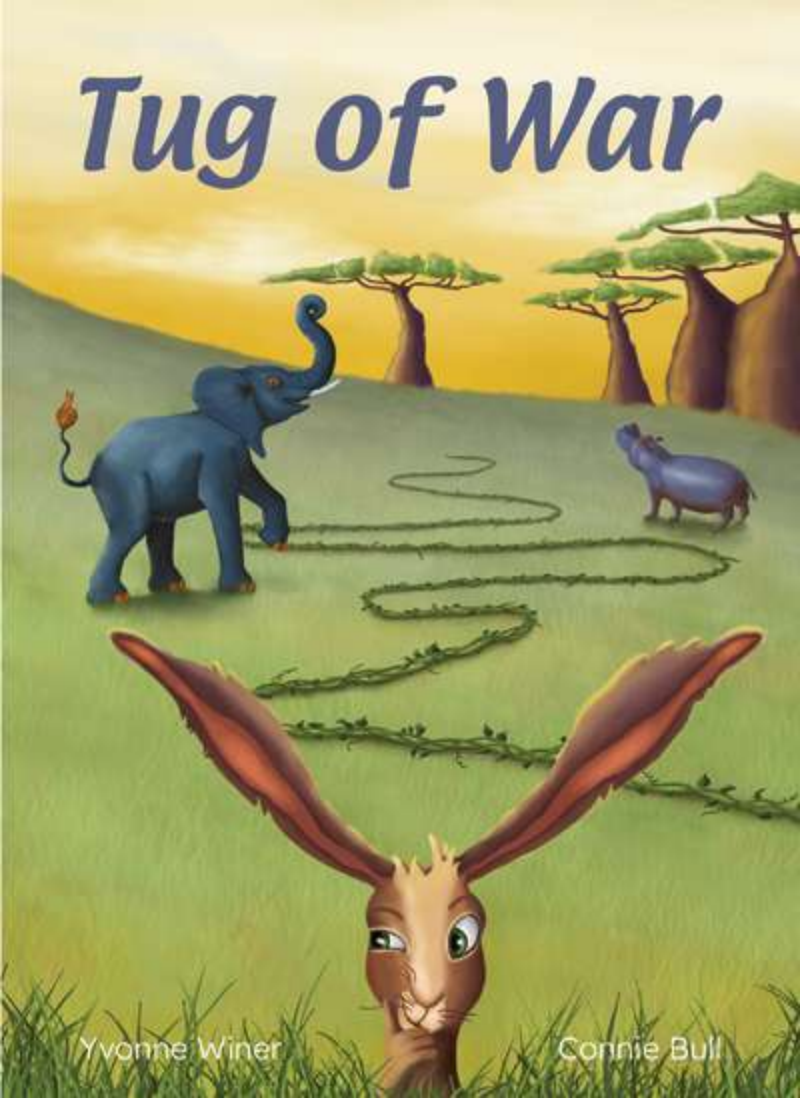
Tug of War



Yvonne Winer

Connie Bull

Tug of War

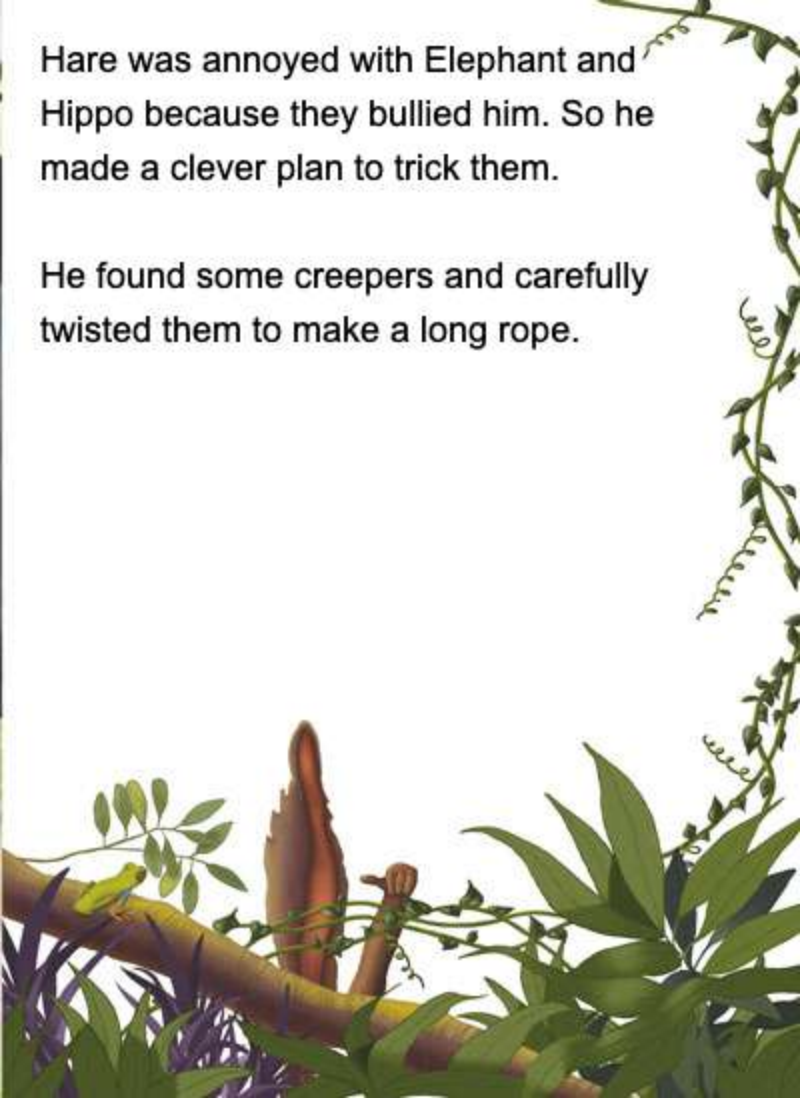
retold by Yvonne Winer
illustrated by Connie Mavromatis

On a small island lived Hippo, Elephant and Hare.

Hippo lived on one side of the island, while Elephant lived on the other, and Hare lived in the middle on a hill.

Hare was annoyed with Elephant and Hippo because they bullied him. So he made a clever plan to trick them.

He found some creepers and carefully twisted them to make a long rope.



First, he went to Elephant and said, "Elephant, I believe I am much stronger than you."

Elephant laughed and said, "Silly Hare, I am much larger than you. So I must be stronger."

Hare said, "Let me tie this rope around you. I'll prove I can pull you up the hill."

Elephant chuckled as Hare tied the rope round him.

"I'll run over the hill with the other end of the rope," said Hare. "When I reach the top I will shout, 'Pull'. Then you will understand that I am stronger than you."

Next, Hare ran up the hill and down the other side to Hippo.

He said, “Hippo, I believe I am much stronger than you.”

Hippo laughed and said, “Silly Hare, I am much heavier than you. So I am certainly stronger.”

Hare said, “Let me tie this rope round you. I’ll prove I can pull you up the hill.”

Hippo laughed louder as Hare tied the rope round him.

"I'll run over the hill with the other end of the rope," said Hare. "When I reach the top I will shout, 'Pull'. Then you will know that I am stronger than you."

When Hare was certain both Elephant and Hippo could see him at the top of the hill, he shouted, “Pull.”

The tug of war began!

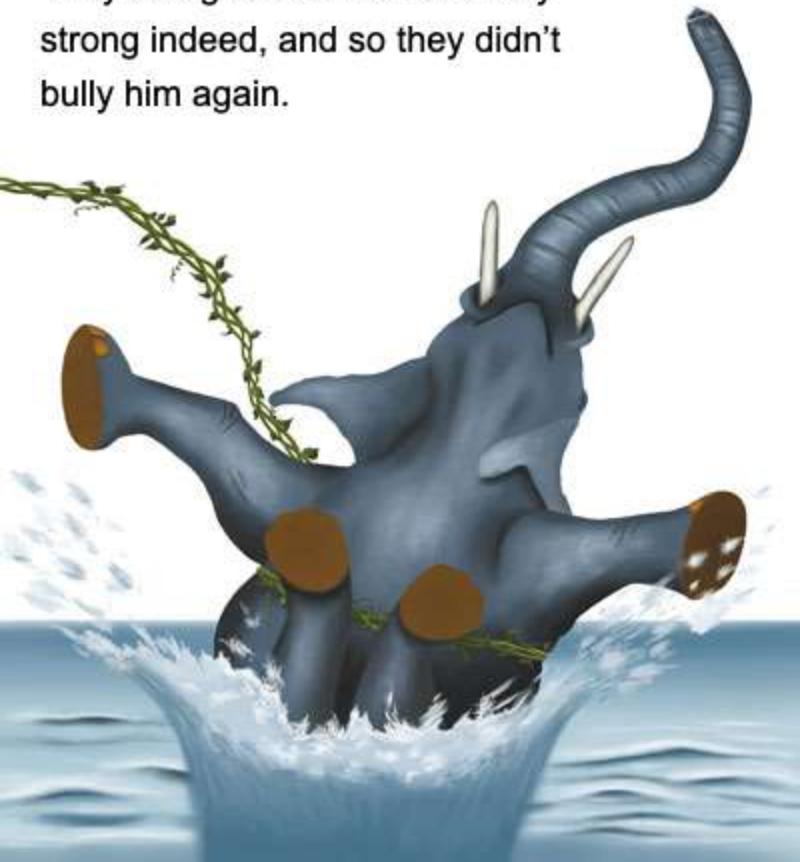
Elephant pulled and tugged and heaved. He dragged Hippo half way up the hill.

Then Hippo pulled and grunted and struggled, until he dragged Elephant half way up the hill.

As Elephant and Hippo both pulled against each other, Hare laughed. Then he took a sharp stone and sliced the rope in half.

Hippo and Elephant tumbled into the sea with an enormous splash!

They thought Hare must be very strong indeed, and so they didn't bully him again.



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